



## **Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,  
Baltimore*

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## **Mayor Sheila Dixon Appoints Daidakis and Gilmore**

*Mayor keeps experienced leaders to attract conventions, entertainment and tourists to Baltimore*

Baltimore, MD (February 5, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon announced Cabinet appointments today that are critical to continuing the momentum of Baltimore's growing tourism, convention center and arts & cultural businesses retaining, Peggy Daidakis, Executive Director Baltimore Convention Center, and William Gilmore, Executive Director Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts.

“Bill Gilmore and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts has continued to showcase the importance of the arts in the city, as well as highlight how major city events have a positive economic impact on large cities,” said Mayor Dixon. “He has led the charge in the arts community by creating accessible programs such as Free Fall Baltimore. He oversees Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival, Inner Harbor holiday fireworks and other events throughout the year.”

Gilmore has been executive director since 1991. He directed the office through its merger with the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Art & Culture in 2002.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts (BOPA) is a nonprofit organization charged by the city as its official events and arts agency. The mission of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts is to make Baltimore a more vibrant, creative city in which to live, work and play. The agency’s annual events include Artscape and the Baltimore Book Festival, along with a full calendar of holiday celebrations, fireworks, ethnic festivals, parades, galas, races, Maryland's largest farmers' market, children's series, concerts and umbrella campaigns. Additionally, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts administers the City Arts & Humanities Grant, Baltimore Mural Program, Comcast Neighborhood Grant Program, and the Bright StARTS Workshops for children and the city’s division of television, video and film.

BOPA is currently renovating the historic Bromo-Seltzer Tower into artist’s studio and gallery space.

Mayor Sheila Dixon also announced that Peggy Daidakis will continue as the Executive Director of the Baltimore Convention Center. Ms. Daidakis has been the Executive Director since 1986. She was the first female to be appointed as the Director of a major convention center. Ms. Daidakis was instrumental in planning the program for the expansion of the Convention Center,

which tripled in size in 1997. She has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM); has been the Chair of the IAAM Foundation and continues to serve on industry committees and participates as a presenter at industry conferences.

"As important as bringing conventioners to Baltimore is how we treat them once they arrive. Peggy has demonstrated a commitment to service that keeps visitors wanting to come back to Baltimore," said Mayor Dixon. "I'm pleased that she will be working with our new President and CEO of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association Thomas Noonan to accommodate our convention guests."

Having worked with both Bill Gilmore and Peggy Daidakis as City Council President, retaining experienced and proven leadership at the Convention Center and with the Office of Promotion and the Arts will enable Mayor Dixon to build on their collective efforts to make Baltimore a better place to Live, Earn, Play and Learn.

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